

**Combating Trafficking in Persons** Case Title:

(Implementation of Section 3(b) of the

**Victims Protection Trafficking** 

Reauthorization Act of 2003)
Interim rule published & effective 4/19/06

-Public comment period closed 6/19/06

-Six respondents submitted multiple comments

Statutory (Pub. L. Nos. 108-193 and 109-164) **Source:** 

- Synopsis of rule:
  - Added FAR 22.17 and associated clause at 52.222-50.
  - Implements statutory restrictions on trafficking in persons in noncommercial service contracts. Prohibits the contractor and contractor employees from engaging in the following activities:
    - -Severe forms of trafficking in persons
    - -Procurement of commercial sex acts
    - -Use of forced labor
- **Drafting second interim rule** Status:



# Case Title: Full Implementation of the Wage Determination OnLine (WDOL) (FAR Case 2005-033)

▶ Type: Interim rule published & effective 6/28/06

-Public comment period closed 8/28/06

No comments received

Source: Statutory (29 CFR parts 1 and 4)

Synopsis:

- Amended FAR Part 22 (majority of revisions at 22.4 and 22.10)
- Directs agencies to use the WDOL internet website to obtain Service Contract Act and Davis-Bacon Act wage determinations.

Status: Proceeding to final rule.



### Case Title: Related

#### **Inflation Adjustment of Acquisition-**

## Thresholds (FAR Case 2004-033)

▶ Type: Final rule published & effective 9/28/06

-8 responses received to proposed rule (all from Government personnel)

Source: 41 U.S.C. 431a, as added by Section 807 of the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2005 (Pub. L. 108-375)

- Synopsis: Section 807 provides for adjustment every 5 years of acquisition-related thresholds.
  - Does NOT escalate the Davis-Bacon Act, Service Contract Act, and trade agreements thresholds. This rule also escalates some non-statutory acquisition-related thresholds.
  - The micro-purchase threshold increases from \$2,500 to \$3,000, except for contracts subject to the Davis-Bacon Act (\$2,000) or SCA (\$2,500).
  - The FPDS reporting threshold at FAR 4.602(c) will be raised from \$2,500 to \$3,000.Commercial Items test program ceiling at FAR 13.500 will be raised from \$5,000,000 to \$5,500,000.
  - The cost and pricing data threshold at FAR 15.403-4 will be raised from \$550,000 to \$650,000.
  - The prime contractor subcontracting plan threshold at FAR 19.702 will be raised from \$500,000 to \$550,000, except for construction which remains unchanged at \$1,000,000.



### Case Title: Reporting of Purchases from Overseas

Sources

(FAR Case 2005-034)

▶ Type: Interim rule published & effective 9/28/06

-Public comment period closes 11/27/2006

Source: Annual civilian appropriations acts and Sec 842 of the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 07.

- Head of each Federal Agency must submit a report to Congress relating to the acquisition of end products manufactured outside the U.S.
- Offerors of manufactured end products must fill in a solicitation provision indicating whether the products were manufactured in the U.S. or outside the U.S.
- For end products manufactured outside the U.S., the Contracting officer must enter into FPDS the reason for acquiring a foreign end product rule.



#### Case Title:

### **Exception to the Buy American Act** for Commercial Information

Technology)

(FAR Case 2005-022)

▶ Type: Final rule published & effective 9/28/06

-Two responses received to interim rule.

Source: Annual civilian appropriations acts since FY

2004

Synopsis:

 Exempts acquisitions of commercial information technology from application of the Buy American Act.



### **Case Title: Removal of Sanctions against Certain EU**

Countries (FAR Case 2005-045)

▶ Type: Interim rule published & effective 4/19/06

-No responses received.

- Source: United States Trade Representative. Issued a determination removing the sanctions against Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Sweden, and the United Kingdom.
- These sanctions were put in place in 1993, and applied only to acquisitions not covered by the World Trade Organization Government Procurement Agreement.
- ▶ These sanctions did not apply to acquisitions by the DoD.
- Synopsis: Removes the sanctions.



# Notification of Employee Rights Payment of Union Dues or

(FAR Case 2004-010)

▶ Type: Final rule published & effective on 6/8/05

-No comments received on the interim rule published and effective 12/20/04

Source: Executive Order 13201

- Added FAR subpart 22.16 and an associated clause at 52.222-39.
- Requires the contractor to display a poster informing employees of their rights concerning union membership and payment of union dues and fees.
- States the information that must be included in the poster.



### Case Title: Labor Standards for Contracts Involving Construction

(FAR Case 2002-004)

▶ Type: Final rule published 6/8/05 and effective 7/8/05

-161 respondents submitted comments in response to the proposed rule issued 12/23/03

Source: Statutory

- Amended Section 22.4 and associated clauses.
- Implemented the DOL rule revising the terms "construction, prosecution, completion or repair," and "site of the work."
- Added and clarified several definitions relating to labor standards for contracts involving construction.
- Made requirements for flow down of labor clauses more precise.



# Case Title: Nonavailable Articles Policy (FAR Case 2003-021)

▶ Type: Final rule published 3/9/05 and effective 4/8/05

- No comments received on the proposed rule.

Source: Government Policy

- Clarify that articles listed at FAR 25.104(a) may not be completely nonavailable domestically (just not available in sufficient quantity or quality)
- Need to conduct market research for domestic sources
- List will be published in the FR for public comment no less than every five years



# Case Title: Powers of Attorney for Bid Bonds (FAR Case 2003-029)

▶ Type: Final rule published and effective on 9/30/05

- 46 respondents submitted comments on the proposed rule published 8/23/04

Source: GAO decisions

- Established that copies of an original power of attorney, including photocopies and facsimile copies, submitted in support of a bid bond, are sufficient evidence of authority to bind the surety.
- Removed the matter of authenticity and enforceability of powers of attorney from a responsiveness determination to a matter of responsibility.